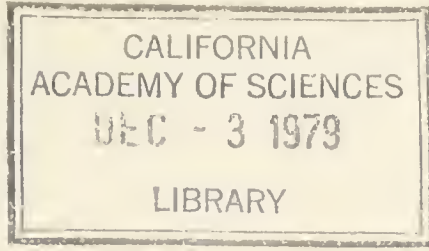


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the gull

Volume 61 Berkeley, Calif. December 1979 Number 11

Oakland Christmas Bird Count - 1979

This is the 80th year of the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count. The GGAS-sponsored Oakland count will be held on Sunday, December 16, rain or shine.

Last year we again led the nation with 202 participants (165 in the field, 37 with feeders). Our total of 169 species ranked 17th. Last year we also led the nation in the following species: Black-bellied Plover, Steller's Jay and Brown Towhee. We urge you to participate and help GGAS maintain this kind of success again in 1979.

Of course, the more familiar you are with your area the more birds you are likely to see, so scout it before count day if possible. Some species are seen in only a few areas and some of these rarer birds have been missed in the past. Leaders will receive a list of birds that could possibly be missed by everyone. Obviously it is important to look for these birds specifically.

If you have a feeder, get to know the birds that frequent it. By noting distinctive individuals of a species and seeing how often they return you can often get an idea of the number of each species that visit your feeder. All feeder participants will receive count forms and instructions in the mail.

The participation fee is the same as last year: \$1.50 for all feeder and field participants.

After the count we will meet at the Trinity United Methodist Church of Berkeley (the same place as last year), located at the corner of

Bancroft Way and Dana. The church entrance is at 2362 Bancroft Way.

GGAS will provide soup, bread and hot drinks. The rest of the food will be pot luck. Persons with last names beginning with A - M are expected to bring a dessert and those beginning with N - Z, a salad. Food will begin being served at 5 p.m. and the species countdown will begin about 7 p.m.

If the count day is rainy or muddy *please* bring a clean pair of shoes to wear in the church.

If you would like to participate in the count and did not receive a mailing, or if you have never participated before and wish to, contact David Rice (865-7826) or Helen Green (526-5943).

—DAVID RICE and HELEN GREEN, *Compilers*

Field Trips Calendar

Saturday/Sunday, December 8-9 — Sacramento and Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuges. See November *Gull*.

Saturday, December 8 — Lake Merritt, Oakland. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Rotary Science Center in Lakeside Park for a morning of birding. We should see a fine variety of wintering water fowl. Bring scopes. Leader: Clarence Maynard (527-0274).

Wednesday, December 12 — Mini trip to Lake Chabot (East Bay). A 2 or 3-mile walk around the lake. Meet at Piper's Restaurant parking lot, MacArthur Blvd. and Dutton Ave., at 8:30 a.m. Take the MacArthur Freeway (580) to Dutton Ave. off ramp, San Leandro. Leaders: Delpha de Timofeev and Ruth Voss (632-5176). The trip is cancelled if it rains. Lunch is optional. (✓)

Friday, December 28 — Lake Merced, San Francisco. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking area at the Lake Merced Circle at the south end of Sunset Blvd. Bring scopes. Lunch is optional. We should see wintering water fowl and common land birds. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074). (✓)

Saturday, January 5 — Palo Alto Baylands. Take Hwy. 101 south to Palo Alto, exit at Embarcadero and drive east toward the yacht harbor and the Baylands Refuge until you reach the duck pond on the left just beyond the Palo Alto Airport. Meet here at 9 a.m. Bring lunch, scopes and clothes appropriate for walking in the mud. We should see shorebirds including Blue-wing Teal. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074). (✓)

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Sunday, January 6 — Morning trip to **Bay Park Refuge, Oakland.** Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot at the north end of Bay Park Refuge for a morning of leisurely birding. From Hwy. 17, take Hegenberger Rd., go right (north) on Edgewater Dr. for about 1 mile to the park. Bring scopes. We should see shorebirds and water fowl. Leader: Dave Gorman (825-2106). (✓)

Carpooling: Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). If you need a ride or are offering a ride call Kate Partridge at work (642-6881, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or at home before 9 p.m. (548-0779).

Thank You For A Great Year

As the year draws to a close, the Field Trips Committee would like to thank all those who made the trips during the past year possible. None of our leaders was paid or reimbursed for expenses, yet all shared generously of their time and knowledge. The hundreds of members and guests who joined us for our outings made it all worth while. To all who made our field trip program successful, we express our gratitude and our wishes for a happy holiday season.

If you participated in our field trip program during the past year we hope you will continue your support either as a leader or a participant during 1980. If you have not participated, especially if you feel you don't know enough about birds, make a New Year's resolution to join us on several trips. With the team effort put into most outings, we feel certain that beginners will feel comfortable and see most of the birds pointed out by the leader.

Once again, we are making an effort to organize bus trips. We hope to offer a bus trip to Morro Bay mid-February. The cost of such a trip would include bus fare and a motel room (double occupancy), approximately \$30 per day. If you are interested in such a trip please call Dan Murphy at 564-0074 as soon as possible.

Many of our leaders take groups out several times each year. Some months are full, yet during others it is very difficult to find more than two or three people willing to lead a trip. We continually need trips during March, May and the summer months. We also need leaders knowledgeable about birding Crystal Springs Reservoir, southern San Francisco Bay, the north Bay, interior areas of Alameda and Contra Costa counties, a late spring or early summer trip to the Sacramento Valley, an August trip to the redwoods along the north coast and any number of local summer trips. If you can help call Dan Murphy, 564-0074.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

October Observations — Through October 30

For many waterbird species this fall is coming late to the Bay Area. Nearly all diving birds have been slow arriving (mob). The Farallones had unfledged Brandt's Cormorants into early October "following an incredibly productive breeding season" (PRBO). Late September's excellent swell of vagrants passerines continued unabated through the first three weeks of October until it was vanquished by clear windy weather with rapid frontal systems. Then the coastal vagrant hot spot shifted south on schedule from Point Reyes to the mouth of the Carmel River and Pacific Grove. Due to the communication lag Farallon reports (all provided by Point Reyes Bird Observatory) are about one week behind mainland reports; thus the impressive vagrant totals in this column are augmented by the Farallon birds beginning September 22 but lack Island birds after October 20. However, this period includes precisely the entire principal swell of vagrants.

WATERBIRDS

Monterey Bay's rare tubenoses occurred as follows: single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were seen Oct. 13 (RS, *et al.*) and Oct. 28 (RLeV, RS, *et al.*). A **white-vented** Manx Shearwater passing Pt. Pinos Oct. 28 showed the marks of the nominate race of the Atlantic (DR). A description has been sent to the California Records Committee (as one should for any very rare bird). Fulmars arrived there the same day, with 63 passing in 1½ hours (DR). **Least Storm-Petrels** were sighted in the Bay several times: one Sept. 28 (DR), two Oct. 6 (JD, DR) and two Oct. 13 (RS, *et al.*). Astounding is the only word for the apparent **Great Frigatebird**, an adult male seen off Moss Landing Oct. 13 (RS, *et al.*), probably the first good record for the ABA area!

As we await the big push, three Cattle Egrets appeared near San Jose Oct. 7 (JLi) and one at the Carmel River Mouth Oct. 13 (DR, *et al.*). Muddy Hollow's Tufted Duck stayed all month (mob). The two earliest Oldsquaws were at Bolinas Lagoon Oct. 20 (MD) and Drakes Estero Oct. 28 (SK, DG). Harlequin Ducks were reported residing at traditional sites: the Farallones, Año Nuevo (4 - JM, *et al.*), Moss Landing (BA, *et al.*), and Hopkins Marine Station (RS). Last year's Clapper Rail was refound at Moss Landing Oct. 27-28 (BS, RS, DR). The Pt. Pinos Rock Sandpiper was noted Oct. 21 (DR), six days in advance of last year's very early date. Two **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** arrived in their main month, the first at the Mendoza Ranch pond Oct. 21 (JZ, DJ, *et al.*) and the other at Moss Landing Oct. 27 (BS, RS, *et al.*). Perhaps caused by the high winds, a wreck of Red Phalaropes

hit the Bay Area about Oct. 27. These birds were "everywhere" on the outer coast and were colliding with objects (mob). Some occurred inside San Francisco Bay (VD, DJ), where 127 were counted at the east end of the Dumbarton Bridge Oct. 30 (SFB, SB). The onshore concentration of about 25 Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers chasing terns at Stinson Beach Oct. 12 (CB) is remarkable. A more-consistently pelagic migrant, a Sabine's Gull, was at Bolinas Lagoon Oct. 14 (LS). That same day a Franklin's Gull visited Pt. Pinos (DMo). Oct. 15 it was Limantour's tern [sic], a Black Tern (DS). A Tufted Puffin was on Monterey Bay Oct. 6 (DR, JD).

HAWKS AND OWLS

Three more Broad-winged Hawks passed Pt. Diablo Oct. 6 (SFB, MAS, mob) and three singles were seen on Pt. Reyes: near Fish Docks Oct. 7 (EM, AM), Nunes Ranch Oct. 18 (JM, *et al.*) and Hall Ranch both Oct. 20 (NC, MG, HG) and 28 (HJ, *et al.*). Late and coastal Swainson's Hawks appeared at Pt. Diablo Oct. 8 (EE) and Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Oct. 10 (RS). Two early Rough-legged Hawks delighted many observers at Nunes Ranch Oct. 21. Short-eared Owl concentrations have become quite dramatic; 11 flushed from a roost on the Limantour Headlands Oct. 2 (OE, BW) and about 15 were flying at Abandoned Ranch Oct. 14 (EMcC, *et al.*). A Long-eared Owl again put in an appearance at Pt. Diablo Oct. 14 (JMcC, MK, *et al.*).

VAGRANT WARBLERS

The following table is similar to last month's but is arranged more geographically to take less space. Continuing birds included in the September Observations are placed in parentheses, as are their previously-reported discovery dates. Semicolons are used to separate dates for different individuals and to separate their observers, in the same order. Summary totals for each species indicate the number included for the first time here and the total reported to this writing this fall. Minimum numbers for common vagrants assume that all unbanded individuals present on consecutive days are the same. Maximum numbers assume that different unbanded individuals were present each day. "Best guesses" assume that unbanded individuals arrived and departed in the same wave nights as individuals that were banded. Over 306 new individuals of 21 species are tabulated, bringing the seasonal total to 479 individuals of 23 species! This is the second highest total ever (after 1974) and many species also produced their next-best numbers. Northern Parula (9), Prairie Warbler, and Palm Warbler all set records, and the latter should be enlarged substantially by mid-December. Conversely, for such an outstanding fall, Tennessee and Blackpoll

Warblers were not as numerous as expected. Pending acceptance, the **Cerulean Warbler** and **Pine Warbler** are fourth Northern California records.

Black-and-White Warbler (total new 11; 21 for the fall to date)

2 singles	Farallones	Sept. 22-23, Sept. 29	PRBO
2	Presidio, S.F.	Sept. 29	EV
1	Lincoln Park, S.F.	Oct. 3	AH, KY
1	Fish Docks	Oct. 6-9	JML, mob
1	CA Academy of Sciences	Oct. 12	LCB
1	Muddy Hollow	Oct. 13	JE
1	Esplanade Park, Pacific Grove	Oct. 17-20	SH, <i>et al.</i>
(1)	Carmel River Mouth	(Sept. 27)-Oct. 9	mob
2	Carmel River Mouth	Oct. 25	DR

Tennessee Warbler (total 12; 18 for the fall)

5 singles	Farallones	Sept. 23, 27, Oct. 2, 5, 13	PRBO
1	Lake Merced	Oct. 6	EE
2 singles	Nunes	Oct. 5; Oct. 11-16	DRu, CH; JM, <i>et al.</i>
1	Fish Docks	Oct. 13-16	JW, <i>et al.</i>
1	Mendoza	Oct. 15-20	DRi, HG, <i>et al.</i>
2 singles	Carmel River Mouth	Oct. 14; Oct. 27-28	EM, mob, RS, <i>et al.</i>

Virginia's Warbler (total 1; 2 for the fall)

1	Carmel River Mouth	Oct. 24-26	RB, JL
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Magnolia Warbler (total new 11; 18 for the fall)

1 + (1)	Farallones	Sept. 22 (one to Sept. 24)	PRBO
5 more	Farallones	Sept. 24, 27, Oct. 2(2), Oct. 4	PRBO
(1)	Fish Docks	(Sept. 30)-Oct. 3	mob
1	Fish Docks	Oct. 7-9	BR, mob
1	Lincoln Park, S.F.	Oct. 11-20	AH, DM, <i>et al.</i>
1	Esplanade Park, P.G.	Oct. 2-9	DR
1	El Carmelo Cemetery, P.G.	Oct. 7	<i>fide</i> DR
1	Pt. Pinos, P.G.	Oct. 17-22	DR

Cape May Warbler (total 3; 5 for fall)

2	Farallones	Sept. 22-23	PRBO
1	Middle Lake, G.G. Park	Oct. 3	LCB

Black-throated Blue Warbler (total new 14; 19 for fall)

6 females	Farallones	Sept. 23-26, 28 (2, one to Sept. 29), Oct. 4, 10, 12	PRBO
2 males	Farallones	Sept. 28, Oct. 4	PRBO
(1) + 2 males	Nunes	(Sept. 27)-Oct. 3; Oct. 6-7; Oct. 11	mob, JMcG; RS, EM, mob, BR; EG
2 females	Fish Docks	Oct. 9	RS, <i>et al.</i>
1 male	Fish Docks	Oct. 11	GH, <i>et al.</i>
1 male	Mendoza	Oct. 13-21	JW, mob

Black-throated Green Warbler (total 2 for fall)

1	Mendoza	Oct. 16	JM, <i>et al.</i>
1	Carmel River Mouth	Oct. 27	RS, <i>et al.</i>

Cerulean Warbler (total 1 for fall)

1	Carmel River Mouth	Oct. 25	DR, DMcG
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Blackburnian Warbler (total new 9; 13 or 14 for fall)

2	Farallones	Sept. 27 (one to Oct. 2)	PRBO
(1)	Mendoza	(Sept. 29)-Oct. 5	mob
1	Nunes	Oct. 5-7	JMa, DRu, CH, mob
2 singles	Fish Docks	Oct. 5-9; Oct. 9	JMa, DRu, CH, mob; RS, <i>et al.</i>
1	Battery Wallace	Oct. 6	PG, HC, <i>et al.</i>
1	Lincoln Park	Oct. 11	AH
1	Abandoned Ranch	Oct. 20	MG, HG, NC
1	Carmel River Mouth	Oct. 27	RS, <i>et al.</i>

Chestnut-sided Warbler (total 13; 17 for fall)

9	Farallones	Sept. 23 (3 - one to Sept. 24), Sept. 28 (2), Oct. 2 (2), Oct. 5-8, Oct. 14	PRBO
1	Lincoln Park	Oct. 3	AH, KY
1	Nunes	Oct. 4	RS, KY, JM, <i>et al.</i>
1	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Oct. 6	JM, EM, <i>et al.</i>
1	Stow Lake, G.G. Park	Oct. 11	DEd

Bay-breasted Warbler (total 2 for fall)

1	Farallones	Oct. 13-14	PRBO
1	Nunes	Oct. 14	EC, SFB, <i>et al.</i>

Blackpoll Warbler (total new 36+; 71+ for fall)

(1)+minimum 18, (1)+maximum 32, (1)+ "best guess" 25	Farallones		
Sept. 22-Oct. 13 (peaks of 6 on Sept. 24, Oct. 2)	PRBO		
(1)+1	Fish Docks	(Oct. 1)-Oct. 5; Oct. 11	mob; JM, <i>et al.</i>
1	Drakes Beach	Oct. 5	DRu, CH
3	Nunes	Oct. 5-6; Oct. 9-13; Oct. 13	DRu, CH, mob; RS, mob; JW, <i>et al.</i>
1 with band	Mendoza	Oct. 14-18	SFB, KLB, <i>et al.</i>
3	Chain of Lakes, G.G. Park	Oct. 3	LCB
1	Pioneer Log Cabin, G.G. Park	Oct. 12	LCB
(5)+2	Esplanade	(Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 2)-Oct. 9; Oct. 3-9	all DR
5	Pt. Pinos	Oct. 3; Oct. 5-9; Oct. 13-15(3)	DR; DR; DR, EG, mob
1	El Carmelo Cemetery	Oct. 13	DR

Pine Warbler (total 1 for fall)

1	Farallones	Oct. 16	PRBO
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Prairie Warbler (total 2; 10 for the fall)

1	Battery Wallace	Oct. 6	PG, HC, <i>et al.</i>
1	Farallones	Oct. 16-20	PRBO

Palm Warbler (total new 122+; 170+, for fall)

		minimum 40, maximum 105, "best guess" 58	Farallones
		Sept. 22-Oct. 18 (peaks: 12 on Sept. 27, 9 on Sept. 28, 8 on Sept. 29, 6 on Oct. 4, 7 on Oct. 12-13, 5 on 9 days including Oct. 16-17)	PRBO
2	Gualala County Park	Oct. 16	DEI
1	Lower Pierce Ranch	Oct. 13	GH, <i>et al.</i>
2	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Oct. 4; Oct. 7-9	RS, KY, JM, <i>et al.</i> ; mob
13	Fish Docks	Oct. 4-6(2); Oct. 6-7(3); Oct. 6-9; Oct. 9(3); Oct. 11-13; Oct. 18; Oct. 21; Oct. 27	JM, mob to Oct. 18; JZ; JML, <i>et al.</i>
2	Willows	Oct. 5 (to Fish Docks Oct. 6?)	JMa
9	Nunes	Oct. 5; Oct. 7-9; Oct. 9(2); Oct. 11; Oct. 16-20(2); Oct. 27(2)	DRu, CH; mob; JM, <i>et al.</i> ; mob; JMS, JM, mob; JML, <i>et al.</i>
1	Road Forks Pool	Oct. 11	RS, <i>et al.</i>
12	Mendoza	Oct. 4; Oct. 4-9; Oct. 11 (5); Oct. 14-18; Oct. 27(4)	RS, JM, KY, mob; ditto; JM, AG, <i>et al.</i> ; EMcC, <i>et al.</i> ; JML, <i>et al.</i>
2	Drakes Beach	Oct. 7	EH, <i>et al.</i>
2	Abandoned Ranch	Oct. 8	fide JM
1	Muddy Hollow	Oct. 28	MD, JZ, DJ
6	Palomarin (PRBO)	Oct. 4(3); Oct. 9, 13, 14	PRBO
1	Bolinas Lagoon	Oct. 20	JR
1	Fire Station, Fort Cronkhite	Oct. 3	DMcC
2	Rodeo Lagoon	Oct. 8; Oct. 13	DT; JM, <i>et al.</i>
1	Pt. Diablo	Oct. 14	JMcC
5	Lincoln Park	Oct. 3(2); Oct. 11; Oct. 19-20; Oct. 20	AH, KY; AH; LCB, AH; AH
1	Stow Lake	Oct. 11	DEd
1	Lake Merced	Oct. 12	BJ
6	Moss Beach	Oct. 20	JM, <i>et al.</i>

9	Pt. Pinos	Oct.3-9;Oct.7-9;Oct.13-16(4);Oct.15;Oct.21;Oct.21-22 all DR except Oct. 3-9 by SH,DR and Oct. 15 by EG	
2	Carmel River Mouth	Oct. 13; Oct. 21	KH; EM
Ovenbird (total new 5; 11 for fall)			
4	Farallones	Sept. 22-24;Sept. 27(2); Oct. 2	PRBO
(1)	Pac. Grove N.H. Museum	(Oct. 2)-Oct. 9	VY,et al.
1	Mendoza	Oct. 15	SW
Northern Waterthrush (total 1; 5 for fall)			
1	Carmel River Mouth	Oct. 12	VM
Mourning Warbler (total 1; 3 for fall)			
1	Farallones	Sept. 23	PRBO
Hooded Warbler (total 1; 2 for fall)			
1	Carmel River Mouth	Oct. 27-29	RS,et al.
Canada Warbler (total new 1; 3 for fall)			
1	Farallones	Sept. 28	PRBO
(1)	Nunes	(Oct. 2)-Oct. 5	mob,EH
American Redstart (total new 57+; 80+ for fall)			
(1)+ minimum 29, (1)+ maximum 41, (1)+ "best guess" 35 Farallones			
Sept. 22-Oct. 14 (peaks: 5 on Sept. 23, 6 on Sept. 24, 27,			
8 on Sept. 28, 4 on Oct. 3-4, 11)			
3	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Oct.6(ad.male);Oct.9(2)	PRBO GH,JML,et al; RS,JM,et al.
5	Fish Docks	Oct.4(3);Oct.6-7;Oct.6-11	JM,RS,KY,et al.; mob; mob
(tailless,banded)	Nunes	(Sept. 27)-Oct. 11	mob
(1)+9	Nunes	(Sept.28)-Oct.4;Oct.4(6);Oct.6;Oct.6-7;Oct.27	mob; JM, et al.; mob; mob; JML, et al.
2	Mendoza	Oct. 4-7; Oct. 6-11	JM,RS,KY,mob; mob
1	Palomarin (PRBO)	Oct. 1	PRBO
3	Battery Wallace	Oct. 6	PG,HC,et al.
1	Lincoln Park	Oct. 3	AH,KY
1	Pioneer Log Cabin, G.G. Park	Oct. 12	LCB
1	Lake Merced	Oct. 6-8	EE
2	Carmel River Mouth	Oct. 29	tide DR

OTHER EASTERN PASSERINES

Two **Least Flycatchers** on the Farallones (Sept. 24, Oct. 10) bracketed the dates of last month's Pt. Reyes bird and one at Fish Docks Oct. 6-7 (RS, JML, JM, mob). Northern California's eighth **Gray Catbird** arrived and departed at Fish Docks one day earlier (Oct. 5-6 - JMa, DRu, CH, mob). A Brown Thrasher spent only Oct. 13 on the Farallones. The eighth Farallon (tenth N CA) **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was photographed Oct. 10. Two Red-eyed Vireos were found within a day of each other: Pioneer Log Cabin, Golden Gate Park Oct. 12 (LCB) and Carmel River Mouth Oct. 13-15 (KH, DMO, EG, mob). Carmel River Mouth's **Philadelphia Vireo** followed on Oct. 26 (DR, BE).

On the Farallones, last month's third Bobolink tarried through Sept. 28 and others followed on Oct. 5 and 9. The last Bobolink elsewhere (Nunes) was also on Oct. 9 (RS, et al.). Both Farallon Orchard Orioles occurred in late September (24 and 27). An adult male "Baltimore" Northern Oriole enlivened Greenwood Park, Pacific Grove, Oct. 27 (RS,

(Continued on page 161)

BENEFIT FOR MONO LAKE FUND

A preview of the photographic exhibit, "At Mono Lake," will be held on Wednesday, December 5, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the gallery of Building A, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. The exhibit features works by 15 photographers including Ansel Adams, Cole and Brett Weston and Philip Hyde. The preview is a benefit for the Mono Lake Fund of the Friends of the Earth Foundation. Wine and dessert will be served. Tickets cost \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door and are available at the CGAS office, from Friends of the Earth (495-4770) and the Sierra Club Bay Chapter (658-5858).

FILM SHOWING FOR EDF

The Northern California premiere of the film, "The Electric Horseman," starring Robert Redford, Jane Fonda and Willie Nelson, will be shown December 20 at 8 p.m. at the Coronet Theater in San Francisco.

This showing is a benefit for the Environmental Defense Fund, a national environmental organization known for its capable scientific and environmental attorneys. The tickets are \$25 each and include a reception before the film showing. Director Sydney Pollack and other special guests will attend. Robert Redford is a trustee of EDF. For ticket information call the EDF office at 548-8906.

BIRDING THE DELTA BY CANOE

The Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum in Walnut Creek is sponsoring a one-day trip to Little Frank's Tract in the Sacramento Delta on December 15, led by Phil Gordon.

This excursion will be a birder's delight because fall migration will be in full swing. The cost of the trip is \$10. For further information call the museum at 935-1983.

PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE AT THE BOOK NEST

The George Whittell Education Center in Tiburon announces that from December 1 - 21 all Peterson field guides in stock are reduced 20% and all Bushnell & Lomb binoculars and telescopes purchased or ordered are 25% off at their store, The Book Nest.

The Center is located at 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon. The hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

As the new year approaches, it is time for all of us to reflect on the important contributions Golden Gate Audubon Society has made to our environment and its protection during 1979. As a member you can again be proud of the accomplishments and dedication of your organization this year.

Members are the backbone of our effectiveness. To increase our achievements we need more members and we need increased commitments from our current supporters. You can assist in this important effort by nominating for membership individuals who share the concerns of our society.

The forms on the following two pages provide you with the opportunity to make a very real contribution to GGAS. In addition to nominating prospective members you may wish to make a holiday gift membership for your friends or family. The form is also a convenient way to order the beautiful and unique *1980 California Birders' Calendar and Almanac* and our publication *Birds of Northern California*. We will be happy to mail these to the people on your gift list with an appropriate card if you provide their names and addresses.

Do not underestimate the importance of nominating potential members. Mass mailings and other membership drives are very expensive. We feel a more effective way of getting new members is through our existing members. Surely you know other concerned and committed persons who would welcome the opportunity to support GGAS and the things we stand for as well as National Audubon. We need both your support and theirs in the 1980s.

The GGAS Board of Directors and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their assistance during our 1979 endeavors. Please accept our best wishes for the holidays and the coming year.

—GGAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I nominate for GGAS and National Audubon membership

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I nominate for GGAS and National Audubon membership

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I nominate for GGAS and National Audubon membership

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*See back of *Gull* for membership rates.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

ORDER FORM

1979-80

1980 Birders' Calendar
and Almanac \$4.50 X = \$.....

Birds of Northern California,
an Annotated field list \$5.00 X = \$.....

Golden Gate Audubon Society
shoulder/hat patch \$1.50 X = \$.....

"Save Mono Lake"
bumper sticker \$1.00 X = \$.....

TOTAL ORDER\$.....

Sales Tax - 6% (BART Counties 6.5%)

Postage and Handling
(Books & Calendar ADD 75¢ each)

(Patches & Stickers ADD 25¢ each)

TOTAL PRICE*\$.....

Contribution to GGAS\$.....

Total Remittance (check enclosed)\$.....

*75% Tax Deductible

Make Check Payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society

Phone.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

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I am also interested in volunteer work for GGAS

(Area of Interest).....

et al.). The adult female **Scarlet Tanager** banded by PRBO at Palomar Oct. 15 was only the fifth for Northern California. A male **Summer Tanager** near Lincoln Park Oct. 5 (L) was probably the same one that spent all September in the Park. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on the Farallones Sept. 23, Oct. 2 and Oct. 5 were outnumbered by those on the mainland, three reported last month plus four in a brief wave: Mendoza Oct. 10 (RS), Middle Lake, Golden Gate Park, Oct. 10 (KY), Lincoln Park Oct. 11 (AH) and Muddy Hollow Oct. 11-13 (DS, JE). The Indigo Bunting in Inverness Oct. 28-29 (RS) is so late that wintering is a definite possibility. The Farallones continued to dominate the Clay-colored Sparrows, with two continuing from Sept. 22 and about 11 others through Oct. 14, peaking at four on Oct. 5. The mainland four were: Bolinas RCA Station Oct. 14 (DS), Inverness Oct. 16 (RS), Salmon Creek, Sonoma County, Oct. 26 (BMcC, PM, SWm) and Pt. Pinos Oct. 27 (RLeV, *et al.*). Four more "Slate-colored" Juncos were found: Drakes Beach Oct. 7 (EH, *et al.*), Farallones Oct. 9-10, 14-15, and Mendoza Oct. 18 (JM, GH, KY). The initial mainland White-throated Sparrows both arrived Oct. 9, Mendoza (JM, GH) and Pt. Reyes Lighthouse (RS, *et al.*), but were preceded by one Sept. 27-29 on the Farallones. By Oct. 29 four had settled in RS's yard in Inverness (RS, BS). Vagrant-migrant Swamp Sparrows visited the Farallones Sept. 28-29 and Bodega Bay Oct. 16-18 (DEL, MD). These three wintering forms receive more attention than the rarer eastern races of many common western species. An eastern Fox Sparrow on the Farallones Sept. 29 must have been conspicuous, but eastern Grasshopper Sparrows are distinguished more subtly. One such bird on the Farallones Oct. 14 followed three probables.

MISCELLANEOUS LANDBIRDS

A rather late Black Swift ventured to the Farallones Oct. 9. Another late apodiform was a Rufous Hummingbird at Carmel River Mouth Oct. 25 (DR). The female Williamson's Sapsucker along Mines Road Oct. 7 (AE) was a montane vagrant. Four more Tropical Kingbirds appeared: near Lincoln Park Oct. 5 (L), Nunes and vicinity Oct. 10-15 (RS, JW, mob), Drakes Beach Oct. 21 (RS, *et al.*), and Limantour Oct. 26 (DS). A late and rare coastal Ash-throated Flycatcher cruised Fish Docks Oct. 7 (BR, mob).

Big news was the discovery of the **Common (?) Skylark** back at Hall Ranch Oct. 27-28 (JML, JM, *et al.*). Maybe if the Seashore Superintendent eases his opposition to netting this bird we'll finally be able to establish facts more substantial than opinions. Seldom are we given such a chance to overcome our errors. Six more Sage Thrashers were welcome: Farallones Sept. 28 - Oct. 12, Oct. 9, Oct. 13(2), Road Forks to Lighthouse Oct. 13-14 (JW, DT) and Pacific Grove Oct. 22 (VY).

Townsend's Solitaire was another coastal rarity (Farallones Oct. 10-12). If accepted the Farallones' **Sprague's Pipit** on Oct. 1 will be the first Northern California record. The male **Great-tailed Grackle** was reobserved at Walton Square Oct. 25 (DE). Complicating the picture was the sighting of a **pair** at Aquatic Park on about the same date (MR). Is the female the one from Walton Square? Are there two males or only one commuting the waterfront?

The **Painted Bunting** on the Farallones was an adult female on Sept. 28. Another Evening Grosbeak visited the Farallones Sept. 22 and two or more passed Palomarin Sept. 30 (both PRBO), but the hot spot remained Tilden Park, with up to 20 Oct. 7-9 (MS, NC, SA, *et al.*). There was a Lark Bunting on the Farallones Sept. 24-25 and another briefly near Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Oct. 6 (RS). Two more Black-throated Sparrows flew to the Farallones, Sept. 24-Oct. 2 and Oct. 10-20. Great Basin sparrows, Vesper and Brewer's, both lent us individuals. Our Vespers were two at Berkeley Marina Oct. 6 (SuW - 1 next day - JiM) and one at Lincoln Park Oct. 12 (KY), while both Brewer's were in the weeds at Nunes, Oct. 6-7 (JML, JM, *et al.*) and Oct. 16 (JM). A Tree Sparrow investigated these same weeds Oct. 21 (RS) and a Harris' Sparrow had been there Oct. 5 (DRu, CH). Hall Ranch Lapland Longspurs increased to seven by Oct. 11 (BR) and 15 by Oct. 28 (JML, JM, *et al.*). Three Laplands were first reported from the fields southwest of Spaletta Ranch Oct. 21 (DJ, JZ) and 15 were estimated there Oct. 27 (JML, *et al.*). The initial Chestnut-collared Longspurs were three at Hall Ranch Oct. 14 (SFB, KLB) and six were there Oct. 28 (JML, JM, *et al.*). Three to five Chestnut-collareds occupied the Spaletta fields Oct. 27 (JML, *et al.*).

Observers: Steve Abbors, Bill Anderson, Karen L. Bailey, Stephen F. Bailey, Laurence C. Binford, Ron Branson, Courtney Buechert, Sheila Byrne, Eric Caine, Howard Cogswell, Nancy Conzett, Maryann Danielson, Jon Dunn, Vickie Dziadosz, Art Edwards, David Edwards (DEd), Ola Eikrem, Bruce Elliot, Doug Ellis (DEl), Ed Ely, Dick Erickson (DE), Jules Evens, Al Ghiorso, David Good, Phil Gordon, Ed Greaves, Helen Green, Michael Green, Keith Hanson, Ed Harper, Sid Harrison, Craig Hohenberger, Alan Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Hans Johanson, Dick Johnson, Bill Jones, Susan Kaiser, Michael Kelly, Land (L), Jeri M. Langham, Ron LeValley, Jim Liskovec (JLi), John Luther (JL), Akiko Makishima, Eugene Makishima, Jack Mann (JMa), Brian McCaffery, Ed McClintock, Dianne McClung, John McCormick, David McGauley, Joe McGee, many observers (mob), Joe Morlan (JM), Jim Morris (JiM), Doug Morton (DMo), Vincent Mowbray, Dan Murphy (DM), Pete Myers, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Don Roberson (DR),

Michael Ross, Dave Rudholm (DRu), Barry Sauppe, Dave Shuford, Marin Audubon Society, Jean Marie Spoelman, Malcolm Sproul, Rich Stallcup, Lynn Stenzel, Dorothy Tobkin, Eileen Vacchina, Barbara Walkup, Stephanie Williams (SWm), Steve Wilson (SW), Summer Wilson (SuW), Jon Winter, Vern Yadon, Keiko Yamane, Jon Zablackis.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*

Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California,
Berkeley, CA 94720

(phone 548-9507; or Karen Bailey at 642-3327 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.)

Conservation Notes

WEAK ALASKA BILL REPORTED OUT BY SENATE COMMITTEE. The Energy and Resources Committee of the Senate has come up with a severely weakened version of the Alaska Lands Bill that would fragment many critical ecosystems and open other areas to development. It would, for example, open the Gates of the Arctic national wildlife refuge to private oil exploration; allow extensive logging on Admiralty Island and permit big game hunting in Wrangell. The committee action disregards the careful balance of the House bill and makes the present version of the Alaska Lands Bill completely unacceptable to conservationists. The full Senate will now hear the bill so there is still time to send a mailgram to your senators or call (202) 224-3121 and urge their support for strong Alaska lands legislation.

SHELL OIL REFINERY IN MARTINEZ SEEKS EXPANSION APPROVAL. Shell Oil Company is seeking to expand and modernize its huge Martinez refinery, some 581 acres between Highway 680 and Carquinez Strait in Contra Costa County. The project would modernize existing process equipment and allow the refinery to accept large quantities of domestic crude oil, mostly from Alaska. Significant adverse effects of the expansion include increased air pollution and some impact on adjacent acres of tidal marsh. Contra Costa County is now accepting comments on the draft environmental impact report which may be seen at the GGAS office.

REDWOOD PARK PLAN. The National Park Services is inviting public involvement in its plans for the new Redwood National Park in Humboldt County. The draft environmental statement is detailed, with maps, diagrams and artists' drawings of future visitor facilities. For anyone interested in this region and the new park it makes great reading and is available at the GGAS office. There are worksheets included for comments which will be accepted through December 17.

Birding Palo Alto Baylands City Park

The most accessible salicornia (salt water) marsh in the Bay Area is situated at the Palo Alto Baylands — the best place to observe the natural vegetation of the bayshore plus a wide variety of wintering waterbirds. This marsh is also home to the endangered Clapper Rail and the Red-bellied Harvest Mouse, and at high tides between November and February it's also possible to see or hear Virginia and Sora Rails, as well as the elusive Black Rail and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

To reach the Baylands, take the Embarcadero Road exit east from Highway 101 and follow it to the end of the road, where there is a nature center. Extensive boardwalks lead out over the marsh. This area is best in the winter when high tides occur during the daytime and multitudes of dabbling ducks and gulls are present in the adjacent sloughs and ponds. For close views of a variety of gulls, the large cement pond just west of the nature center is the best area — a reliable spot for Thayer's Gull in winter and sometimes a wintering Glaucous Gull. Hordes of gulls are attracted to this site because of the city dump adjacent to and south of the Baylands.

For Blue-winged Teal, take the loop trail along the slough bordering the pond. The ponds directly to the south of the Baylands, reached via the frontage road, are also excellent for studying gulls and dabbling ducks. Most winters a European Wigeon can be found among the hundreds of American Wigeon, and Little Blue Heron plus a hybrid Little Blue x Snowy Egret have also been recorded here. In summer Least Terns nest near the dump and Short-eared Owls can be seen most winters by walking out to the dump. Burrowing Owls are resident in the fields bordering the airport just west of the Baylands.

—SUSANNE LUTHER

(Reprinted from the *Western Tanager*, Volume 45, Number 1, September, 1978.)

Winter Boat Trips for Marine Mammals, Birds

A marine mammal trip is scheduled for January 13. Past trips have produced excellent views of Gray Whale, Dall Porpoise, White-sided Dolphin, California Sea Lion, Sea Otter, Harbor Seals and several other species.

A pelagic trip emphasizing marine birds is planned for January 20. A partial list of birds seen on previous winter trips includes albatross, Sooty Shearwater, Slender-billed Shearwater, Northern Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Rhinoceros Auklet, Cassin's Auklet, Ancient Murrelet, Xantus Murrelet, Glaucous Gull and jaeger.

Trips will depart from Monterey harbor. The fare will be \$17 per

person. Reservations can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope and check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley 94705. Details on when and where to meet will be sent with acknowledgment.

GGAS Tour to Hawaii

Designed for both the beginning enthusiast and the advanced birder, the tour (April 5-14, 1980) will visit the rich and diverse Hawaiian Archipelago for native birds, plants and volcanic geology. We will go from the big island of Hawaii, the youngest, with its volcanic moon-scapes to Maui for a hike across Haleakala caldera and snorkeling at a coral reef in sight of Humpbacked Whales; then to the oldest island, Kauai, with its deeply fluted cliffs, lush vegetation and cascading waterfalls.

The fee (\$400 + air fare) includes land transportation, lodging, a snorkeling trip, naturalist guides and most food. Leaders are Roger Harris (533-9508) and Meryl Sundove (388-5831). For itinerary and reservations contact South American Wilderness Adventures, 1760 Solano Ave., #203, Berkeley (524-5111).

Color-banded Gulls from Mono Lake

Twelve hundred young California Gulls were banded at Mono Lake this summer in an effort to determine their wintering areas and migration routes. All birds were banded before fledging with a metal Fish and Wildlife Service band and either a red or light green plastic band. The color and location of the bands on the gulls' legs are coded according to the area of the colony from which they departed.

Mono Lake's future is presently being debated. It is important to gather as much data as possible on the Mono gulls' biology at all seasons. Please help by searching the California Gulls you encounter for banded birds. Please send any information to David Winkler, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, or Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, MD 20811.

ACR Thanks the Guard

Our appreciation and thanks go to Company D of the 579th Engineering Battalion of the California Army's National Guard for the donation of labor and equipment in removing the concrete and foundation of the old barn which stood behind the exhibit hall and other buildings in the meadow at Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Out of the waste material they have built a berm to help protect Schwarz Grove, the nesting area of the herons and egrets.

—BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Audubon Canyon Ranch

Cooper Ornithological Society Meeting

The third meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Society for the 1979-80 academic year will be held on Monday, December 10, at 8 p.m. in room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley.

Russell Greenberg, UC Berkeley, will present a talk entitled "Wondering on the winter ways of wood warblers in Panama."

The meeting is open to anyone with a strong interest in the biology of birds.

The Gull's Un-sung Heroine

When I took over *The Gull* in November, 1977 it was with the realization that I had an abysmal lack of knowledge of both ornithology and editing. I had begun birding less than a year before and had never edited a thing in my life. The birding part was coming along, thanks to our excellent GGAS-sponsored classes, but I knew that I would benefit greatly from anyone who could help me produce a newsletter that had both substance and quality.

Enter Fanya Carter, a GGAS member who had responded to a questionnaire in the September *Gull* which asked readers their interests in GGAS and what they would be willing to do to help the chapter. Saying she had long experience as a proof reader, she indicated an interest in working on *The Gull*.

I wasted no time signing her on, and so, from almost the beginning of my tenure she has read preliminary copy, correcting my abominable spelling, citing stylistic discrepancies and sometimes just pencilling in a caustically pointed question mark.

When the galleys are pulled at the printers we both proof read them independently for errors in typesetting and she has caught many that missed my original scrutiny.

If *Gull* readers enjoy the publication, much of the credit goes to Fanya and I am very overdue in my public thanks to her for her extremely faithful and much appreciated help. She has not read this copy, so any mistakes are mine.

—NANCY CONZETT, *Editor*

NAS's "Birds of Mexico" Symposium Scheduled for February

The fourth annual symposium to be presented by the National Audubon Society's Western Education Center will be entitled, "Birds of Mexico; Their Ecology and Conservation." This year's day-long program will be held in the Morrison Auditorium of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco on Saturday, February 23, 1980.

Included in the program will be presentations by Alexander Sprunt, IV, Director of National Audubon's Research Department; C. Eugene Knoder, Director of the Society's Western Environmental Science Program; Dr. Clyde Jones of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Dr. Laurence Binford of the California Academy of Sciences; Dr. Dan Anderson of the University of California at Davis; and Dr. Bernardo Villa of the National University of Mexico.

Admission will be by *advance registration only*. For tickets, mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope and your check, made payable to the National Audubon Society, for \$4.50 per person, to BIRDS, Western Education Center, National Audubon Society, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For Audubon Canyon Ranch

In memory of

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David W. Cogswell
S. V. Gunnison
Harvey Milk

Gift of

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Blanche Vrana

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For GGAS

In memory of

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Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$20 per year (individual); \$25 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$5 per year; single issues 50¢. High school and college student membership \$13.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$13.50, senior citizen family, \$15.50.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**